Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1. (currently amended) A method for preparing a sample to extract RNA used in a tumor marker detecting method for diagnosing colon cancer ~~consisting essentially of~~ comprising: [[a)]] homogenizing a collected biological sample in the presence of an RNase inhibitor which is not EDTA to prepare a suspension thereof, without separating cell components from the biological sample.

Claim 2. (original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the collected biological sample is frozen.

Claim 3. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the RNase inhibitor is selected from the group consisting of guanidine thiocyanate, Isogene and Ultraspec II.

Claim 4. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the biological sample is feces; and the RNase inhibitor is guanidine thiocyanate.

Claim 5. (currently amended) A tumor marker detecting method for diagnosing colon cancer ~~consisting essentially of~~ comprising:
a) homogenizing a collected biological sample in the presence of an RNase inhibitor which is not EDTA to prepare a suspension, without separating cell components from the biological sample;
b) extracting RNA from the sample obtained from step a) to provide extracted RNA;
c) carrying out reverse transcription on the extracted RNA from step b) to provide cDNA;
d) amplifying the cDNA from step c); and
e) detecting the amplified cDNA from step [[(d)]] d) .

Claim 6. (previously presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the tumor marker is COX-2.

Claim 7. (withdrawn) A kit for preparing a sample to extract RNA used in a tumor marker detecting method for diagnosing colon

cancer, comprising the following means:

a) a means to homogenize a collected biological sample in the presence of an RNase inhibitor, and prepare a suspension thereof; characterized by involving no means for separating cell components from the biological sample.

Claim 8. (withdrawn) A kit according to claim 7, further comprising a means to freeze the collected biological sample.

Claim 9. (withdrawn) A kit according to claim 7, wherein the RNase inhibitor is guanidine thiocyanate.

Claim 10. (withdrawn) A kit according to claim 7, wherein the biological sample comprises feces.

Claim 11. (withdrawn) A tumor marker detecting kit for diagnosing colon cancer, comprising the following means:

b) a means to extract RNA from the obtained sample for extracting RNA;

c) a means to reverse transcribe the extracted RNA to give cDNA;

d) a means to amplify the obtained cDNA; and

e) a means to detect the amplified cDNA.

Claim 12. (withdrawn) A kit according to claim 7, wherein the tumor marker is COX-2.

Claim 13. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein the biological sample comprises microorganisms.

Claim 14. (previously presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein in step b) whole RNA is extracted from the sample obtained from step a) without separating RNA derived from human cells from RNA derived from bacteria.

Claim 15. (previously presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein in step d) amplifying the cDNA from step c) is carried out by a nested PCR.

Claim 16. (previously presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein the amplification is carried out by a PCR and a first round of the PCR is executed for 20 cycles.

Claim 17. (previously presented) A method according to claim 5, wherein the collected biological sample is frozen.

Claim 18. (currently amended) A method according to claim 5, wherein the RNase inhibition is selected from the group consisting guanidine thiocyanate, Isogene and Ultraspec II.

Claim 19. (previously presented) A method according to claim 5, wherein the biological sample comprises feces.

Claim 20. (previously presented) A method according to claim 6, wherein the biological sample is frozen; the biological sample comprises feces; and the RNase inhibitor is guanidine thiocyanate.